

Please add the following new claims:

A2
--7. A glass part for connecting optical fibers manufactured using the method claimed in claim 2, wherein said glass part has open ends, and wherein at least one of the open ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least one of the open ends and said internal hole.

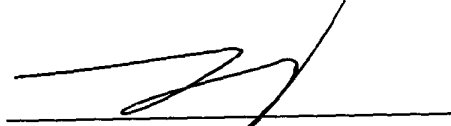
B1
8. A glass part for connecting optical fibers manufactured using the method claimed in claim 2, wherein said glass part has open ends, and wherein at least one of the open ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least one of the open ends and said internal hole. --

R E M A R K S

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), a clean copy of amended claim 6 is set forth in the present Amendment, and a marked-up version of the amended claim 6 is attached hereto.

The amendment is being made to eliminate the multiple dependency of claim 6.

Respectfully submitted,



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